

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
BECKLEY**

CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 5:14-CR-244-ICB-OJA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PLAINTIFF

V.

NOTICE OF RECUSAL

DONALD L. BLANKENSHIP

DEFENDANT

The United States, through counsel, provides notice that the Associate Deputy Attorney General has approved the recusal of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia from defending the Section 2255 motion filed by the Defendant on April 18, 2018. The United States will now be represented by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. The undersigned has been appointed a Special Attorney pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 515, and makes this appearance pursuant to Local Rule 44.1(d). In accordance with Department of Justice policy, the United States submits the Notice of Recusal and Special Attorney Appointment Affidavit.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERSON B. SESSIONS III
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, JR.
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

By: /s/ Kate K. Smith
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On May 25, 2018, I electronically filed this document through the ECF system, which provided notice to counsel of record.

/s/ Kate K. Smith
Assistant United States Attorney